LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.   **(Currently Amended)** A method for accessing prospectus data, comprising:

~~determining~~ identifying a first portion of financial prospectus data having a size when converted to an optical readable format no greater than the storage capacity of an optical bar code, wherein a printed financial prospectus comprises the first portion of financial prospectus data in a human-readable format;

encoding the first portion of prospectus data [[as]] on a first optical bar code;

affixing the first optical bar code to the printed financial prospectus; and

extracting and converting the optical readable data back to a human readable format without removing the affixed first optical bar code from the printed financial prospectus.

2.   **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1, further comprising:

~~determining~~ identifying a second portion of financial prospectus data having a size when converted to an optical readable format no greater than the storage capacity of an optical bar code, wherein the printed financial prospectus comprises the second portion of financial prospectus data in a human-readable format;

encoding the second portion of prospectus data [[as]] on a second optical bar code; and

affixing the second optical bar code to the printed financial prospectus.

3.   **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1 wherein the first optical bar code stores the first portion of prospectus data in a summary format.

4.   **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein the first optical bar code stores the first portion of prospectus data in a standardized format.

5.   **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 2, wherein:

the first optical bar code stores a first category of information associated with the printed financial prospectus; and

the second optical bar code stores a second category of information associated with the printed financial prospectus, wherein the first category of information is different from the second category of information.

6.   **(Cancelled)**

7.   **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein the first optical bar code is affixed to a cover of the printed financial prospectus.

8-17. **(Cancelled)**

18.   **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein:

the printed financial prospectus comprises two or more of the following plurality of data types: security information, classification information, consolidated financial information, inventory information, dilution data, asset information, debt information, past performance information, management salary information, tax information, underwriter compensation information, and operations data; and

the first portion of financial prospectus data is ~~determined based~~ at least in part [[on]] a first one of the plurality of data types;

and further comprising:

~~determining~~ identifying a second portion of financial prospectus data having a size when converted to an optical readable format no greater than the storage capacity of an optical bar code and ~~based~~ that is at least in part a second one of the plurality of data types;

encoding the second portion of prospectus data as a second optical bar code; and

affixing the second optical bar code to the printed financial prospectus.

19.   **(Currently Amended)** The method of 1, ~~further comprising reading~~ wherein the optical readable data is extracted from the first optical bar code using a bar code scanner.

20.   **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 19, further comprising writing the data ~~read~~ extracted from the first optical bar code to a database.

21-26. **(Cancelled)**

27.   **(New)** A method for accessing prospectus data, comprising:

receiving a printed financial prospectus, the prospectus comprising:

a first portion of financial prospectus data in a human-readable format having a size when converted to an optical readable format no greater than the storage capacity of an optical bar code, and

a first optical bar code affixed to the printed financial prospectus that encodes the first portion of financial prospectus data; and

extracting and converting the optical readable data back to a human readable format without removing the affixed first optical bar code from the printed financial prospectus.

28.   **(New)** The method of claim 27, the printed financial prospectus further comprising:

a second portion of financial prospectus data in a human-readable format having a size when converted to an optical readable format no greater than the storage capacity of an optical bar code, and

a second optical bar code affixed to the printed financial prospectus data that encodes the second portion of the financial prospectus data.

29.   **(New)** The method of claim 28, wherein:

the first optical bar code stores a first category of information associated with the printed financial prospectus; and

the second optical bar code stores a second category of information associated with the printed financial prospectus, wherein the first category of information is different from the second category of information.

30.   **(New)** The method of claim 28, wherein:

the printed financial prospectus comprises two or more of the following plurality of data types: security information, classification information, consolidated financial information, inventory information, dilution data, asset information, debt information, past performance information, management salary information, tax information, underwriter compensation information, and operations data;

the first portion of financial prospectus data is at least in part a first one of the plurality of data types; and

the second portion of financial prospectus data is at least in part a second one of the plurality of data types.

31.   **(New)** The method of claim 27, wherein the first optical bar code stores the first portion of prospectus data in a summary format.

32.   **(New)** The method of claim 27, wherein the first optical bar code stores the first portion of prospectus data in a standardized format.

33.   **(New)** The method of claim 27, wherein the first optical bar code is affixed to a cover of the printed financial prospectus.